



## Field Sanitation and Drinking Water--State<sup>1</sup>

C.D. Covey<sup>2</sup>

Employers of hand laborers must comply if the workers are employed in one location at one time.

### EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

The employer must provide facilities including toilets, handwashing facilities and potable drinking water as follows:

- Where four (4) or less hand laborers are engaged in one location, toilet and handwashing facilities need not be in close proximity to the location where work is performed so long as such facilities are made available to workers, e.g., transportation to such facilities is available. Potable drinking water must be provided for one (1) or more hand laborers.
- Where five (5) or more hand laborers are employed in one location at one time, at least one (1) toilet and handwashing facility shall be provided at the location for each twenty (20) workers or fraction thereof. Where more than 20 hand-harvesters are working and 50 percent of the harvesters are women, 1 toilet shall be designated with appropriate sign for men and 1 toilet designated with appropriate sign for women. Toilet and handwashing units shall be located together. The facilities shall be located within a one-quarter mile walk of most hand-laborers' place of work in the field.
- When it is not possible to comply with the above requirement because of physical or terrain conditions, the facilities shall be located at the point of closest vehicular access.
- Toilet facilities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with Florida Administrative Code 10D-6.051, which provides, in part, that:
  - They shall be portable, self-contained, and exclude flies from the waste container.
  - The waste container shall be watertight and constructed of non-absorbent, acid-resistant, non-corrosive, easily cleanable material.
  - Floors and interior walls shall have a non-absorbent finish and be easily cleanable.
  - Toilet tissue shall be provided and units for male use provided with urinals.
  - Waste containers shall be completely emptied, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at least twice weekly.
  - The inside of toilets shall be cleaned and disinfected each time the waste container is emptied.

1. This document, Fact Sheet FRE-92, is a new (7/92) version of the document extracted from the "1992 Handbook of Regulations Affecting Florida Farm Employers and Employees" published January 1992 by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office.
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- Toilets shall have self-closing doors with an inside latch to insure privacy.
  - Sludge and/or contents from septic tanks, grease traps, temporary privies or similar waste disposal appurtenances shall be disposed of by treatment methods approved by the local HRS County Public Health Unit or by burial, incineration, or sanitary landfill when approved by the local Health Unit. Disposal into drainage ditches or surface waters is prohibited.
  - Each operator must annually obtain a dumping permit from the local HRS County Public Health Unit. The following must be provided to obtain a permit:
    - Evidence that equipment is adequate and in good repair. Equipment shall be inspected and approved by the local HRS County Public Health Unit.
    - Permanent address of the business and location of equipment.
    - Evidence of a satisfactory and acceptable method and place for waste disposal. If an employer contracts with a licensed septic tank firm to service his units, the employer may not have to obtain a dumping permit. See your local HRS County Public Health Unit.
    - Evidence of knowledge of applicable rules and regulations.
  - Handwashing facilities shall be convenient, supplied with potable water in appropriate container and provided with soap or other cleanser and single use towels. A waste container shall be provided for used towels, and the waste water from the handwashing facility shall not cause a sanitary nuisance.
  - Drinking water shall be potable and obtained from a source which complies with the provisions of Chapters 17-550, 555, 560 or 10D-4 Florida Administrative Code. Water shall be provided in containers constructed of smooth, impervious, corrosion resistant material and shall be marked with the words "Drinking Water" in English and, if necessary, the prevalent native language of the workers. Single service cups shall be provided unless water is dispensed from a fountain equipped with an angle jet outlet. Ice used for cooling water shall be made from potable water and shall be handled in a sanitary manner.
  - HRS personnel and Department of Labor and Employment Security crew leader compliance officers are now authorized to issue civil money citations up to \$500 per violation of the above standards.
- RELATED INFORMATION**
- Chapter 381.006(7) Florida Statutes.
  - Chapter 10D-10.038(1)(b) 1.,2.,3.,4. Florida Administrative Code.
  - Labor Bulletin No. 439, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, Orlando, April 2, 1986.
- RESPONSIBLE AGENCY**
- Environmental Health Services  
Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services  
1317 Winewood Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Telephone: 904/488-4070
- Request for information concerning permits, compliance, and other problems should be referred to the local HRS County Public Health Unit.